

NEWS IN BRIEF

**BIKE TAXI DRIVER
SEXUALLY
ASSAULTS WOMAN
IN CHENNAI, THEN
DROPS HER HOME****Diary Times Desk :**

A man working as a bike taxi driver in Chennai was arrested by the police for sexually assaulting a 22-year-old woman on Monday. The man, identified as Sivakumar, was produced before a court and sent to judicial custody on Tuesday. Sivakumar's motorcycle has also been seized.

According to investigators, the woman booked a bike taxi late Monday to meet her friend in Chennai's Pakkikaranai. She asked the assigned driver- Sivakumar- to wait for her return trip. However, while dropping her home on Tuesday morning, Sivakumar allegedly took a deserted route, threatened the woman, and sexually assaulted her. Later the driver dropped the victim off at her house. She mentioned the incident to her husband. T. S. Vanagaram Police conducted an inquiry on the complaint and found it to be true. A case was registered, and the accused.

**GOVT. MANDATES
KNOW YOUR
VEHICLE (KYV) TO
PREVENT FASTAG
FRAUD****Diary Times Desk :**

After KYC (Know Your Customer), the government has mandated KYV (Know Your Vehicle) to prevent the misuse of FASTags.

Introduced on October 31, 2024, KYV requires all vehicle owners to submit an image of their vehicle and registration certificate to verify that the FASTag is linked to the correct vehicle.

Just like KYC, which needs to be updated regularly, owners are required to verify their vehicle documents every three years. Owners must upload their vehicle's RC, an image of the front, the FASTag, the vehicle registration number, and an image from the side showing the number of axles. FASTag issuers need to verify all the details with the Vahan database.

According to a government official, the need for KYV arose after numerous cases of FASTag fraud were reported. Truck drivers were allegedly using tags meant for cars, which prompted policymakers to come up with a system to prevent this.

**SELECTION OF
OFFICERS AND
STAFF****ED FLAGS NEW CASH-FOR-JOBS SCAM, ASKS
TN COPS TO INITIATE PROBE**

Along with the letter, the ED has also provided a 232-page dossier with the names of the suspected lynchpins of the alleged scam, detailing their role in it.

The dossier also explains the modus operandi of the alleged exam rigging and details of 150 candidates in whose favour the process was manipulated and the evidence for chain of collection and payment of bribes through middlemen. When contacted, MAWS secretary D Karthikeyan said he was not aware of the ED's letter, and the recruitment was done "perfectly fine" without any irregularities.

The alleged irregularities pertain to appointment of 2,538 assistant engineers, town planning officers, junior engineers, and sanitary inspectors by MAWS department in August this year for which around 1.12 lakh had applied in early 2024.

In the letter, ED said these details tumbled out while they were investigating the money laundering aspect of a bank fraud case related to True Value Homes (TVH) linked to MAWS Minister KN Nehru's brother N Ravichandran.

Diary Times Desk : Citing evidence unearthed during a raid conducted earlier this year, the Enforcement Directorate has written a letter to the Tamil Nadu police on Monday alleging a cash-for-jobs scam in the selection of officers and staff to 2,538 posts in the state Municipal Administration and Water Supply (MAWS) department. The appointment orders were handed over to the candidates by Chief Minister MK Stalin on August 6.

In the communication sent under Section 66(2) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to the Tamil Nadu Head of Police Force (HoPF), the ED has said that bribes of Rs 25 lakh to Rs 35 lakh were collected per post by powerful politicians and entities close to them for rigging the examination process in mid-2024 and awarding appointment orders in favour of at least 150 candidates in August 2025.

The agency has also sought a probe against the officials of Anna University which conducted the exams.

POSITIVE PROGRESS ON INDIA-EU FTA; HIGH LEVEL EU TEAM TO VISIT INDIA NEXT WEEK

Diary Times Desk : India and the European Union (EU) have reaffirmed their commitment to conclude the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) by the end of 2025, with a high-level EU delegation scheduled to travel to India next week to discuss modalities.

The Commerce Ministry on Wednesday said that the EU technical team, led by the Director General for Trade, will visit India to work toward a "constructive conclusion" of the agreement based on potential solutions identified over the past two days.

The visit will be a follow up to the conclusion of Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal's three-day visit to Brussels to discuss the issue.

India said the minister had "productive and meaningful" engagements with Maroš Šefčovič, European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security, and his team. The discussions focused on outstanding issues related to the ongoing India-EU FTA negotiations.

"Both sides reaffirmed their shared commitment to conclude the India-EU FTA by the end of 2025, following the direction from Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President of the European Commission Ms Ursula von der Leyen during the College of Commissioners' visit to New Delhi in February 2025. The engagement focused on achieving a mutually beneficial, balanced and equitable trade agreement, reflecting the depth of political trust and the strategic ties between India and the European Union, and at the same time respecting each other's sensitivities and priorities," the ministry said in a statement.

**REPORT SAYS PM MODI SKIPPED MALAYSIA
SUMMIT TO AVOID MEETING TRUMP OVER
PAKISTAN, RAHUL GANDHI RUBS IT IN**

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi skipped a regional leaders' summit in Malaysia this week to avoid an encounter with US President Donald Trump and a potential discussion on Pakistan, according to a media report.

Officials were concerned that Trump might reiterate his earlier claim of mediating a ceasefire between India and Pakistan after a four-day armed conflict in May. Bloomberg quoted people familiar with the matter as saying.

India has consistently denied that Trump played any role in the truce.

Modi's absence from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) summit in Kuala Lumpur marked a rare break from tradition. Since 2014, he has attended every leaders' meeting except in 2022, while the 2020 and 2021 editions were held virtually due to the pandemic.

Relations between New Delhi and Washington have deteriorated since the Pakistan conflict five months ago. In August, Trump imposed 50 per cent tariffs on Indian exports — half of which were reportedly a penalty for India's continued purchases of Russian oil. Trade talks have since dragged on with no clear breakthrough in sight.

**95 INCIDENTS IN 14 YEARS, IS HAL'S DECISION
TO LICENSE PRODUCE SUKHOI SUPERJET SJ-
100 IN INDIA CORRECT?**

Diary Times Desk : In a significant development that will strengthen India's civil aviation sector, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Russia's state-owned aerospace company United Aircraft Corporation (UAC) to produce the Sukhoi SJ-100 civil commuter aircraft in India.

This will be the first time in nearly four decades that a civil aviation aircraft will be produced under license in India.

This is significant, as India is one of the world's fastest-growing civil aviation markets.

Passenger traffic has been rising steadily, with domestic air passenger numbers reaching 161 million annually by 2024, and projections estimate 300 million by 2030.

India's civil aviation sector is projected to require approximately 2,200 new commercial aircraft over the next 10 years (2025–2035) to support fleet expansion and replacement amid surging passenger demand. Since India is currently wholly dependent on Boeing and Airbus for its commercial aircraft fleet, domestic passenger jet manufacturing will help New Delhi save billions of dollars in foreign reserves.

In the last two years, Indigo and Air India, two of India's largest passenger carriers, have ordered more than 1,100 aircraft (Indigo: 560, Air India: 570) in deals worth more than US\$100 billion.

These are among the largest civil airliner orders in history.

CONGRESS LEADERS

**TREASON CASE TO BE
FILED AGAINST CONGRESS
LEADERS FOR SINGING
BANGLADESH NATIONAL
ANTHEM: ASSAM CM**

Diary Times Desk : Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday said he has instructed the police to register a case of treason against Congress leaders of Sribhumi district for singing the national anthem of Bangladesh at a party meeting.

Addressing a press conference here after a cabinet meeting, Sarma also alleged that singing the anthem is the opposition party's endorsement of the claim by a section of leaders in Bangladesh that the entire Northeast region is part of the neighbouring nation.

The Assam Congress claimed that the BJP is creating an "unnecessary controversy" as it has no other issue to divert people's attention.

The CM said, "The Congress meeting started with the singing of Bangladesh's national anthem instead of the Indian national anthem. It is a blatant disrespect to the people of India and its national anthem."

Sarma said he has already instructed the police to register a case of treason under various sections of the law against the Sribhumi District Congress Committee and its leaders.

In a Seva Dal meeting at the district Congress office in Sribhumi town on Tuesday, the leaders started the proceedings after singing two lines of the Bangladeshi National Anthem 'Amar Sonar Bangla', written by Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore, who also penned the Indian National Anthem.

**MASOOD AZHAR'S
'PARADISE' PROMISE AND
'MEN' WARNING TO JAISH
WOMEN RECRUITS**

Diary Times Desk : Enemies of Jaish-e-Mohammed have put "Hindu women into the Army", and the terror outfit's new women brigade, Jamaat ul-Mominaat, aims to counter this move, Jaish chief Masood Azhar has said. In a 21-minute audio recording accessed by NDTV, Azhar says "enemies of Jaish" have also propped "female journalists against us" and that he is "mobilising women to compete and fight against them".

The speech, reportedly delivered at Markaz Usman-o-Ali in Bahawalpur, details the blueprint for training, indoctrinating, and deploying women under the new wing of Jaish, which has carried out several terror attacks in India, including those in Uri and Pulwama.

Azhar says that members of the women's wing will be trained like Jaish's male recruits. He says that just as male recruits undergo the 15-day "Daura-e-Tarbiat" course, women joining Jamaat-ul-Mominaat will be part of an induction course called "Daura-e-Taskiya". This training will be conducted at Markaz Usman-o-Ali.

KERALA GOVERNMENT PUTS PM SHRI SCHEME
IMPLEMENTATION ON HOLD, SETS UP PANEL FOR REVIEW



Diary Times Desk : In a significant shift from its recent decision, the Kerala government has paused the implementation of the PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) scheme and announced a fresh review of the agreement signed with the Centre. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Tuesday said the state will reassess the implications of joining the scheme before proceeding further. Addressing a press conference, Vijayan confirmed that a seven-member cabinet sub-committee has been constituted to examine the matter and submit a detailed report. The Chief Minister said the findings of the committee will guide the state's final position, which will be formally conveyed to the Union government through a written communication. The latest move comes just weeks after Kerala signed the PM SHRI Memorandum of Understanding following prolonged resistance.

INDIRA TOLD US WE'RE NOT
AFRAID, MODI CAN'T SAY
TRUMP'S CEASEFIRE CLAIM IS
NOT TRUE: RAHUL

Diary Times Desk : Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is "scared of Donald Trump" after the US President once again claimed credit for ending hostilities between India and Pakistan. "Modi is scared of Donald Trump. The US President has said at least 50 times that he scared Narendra Modi and stopped 'Operation Sindoor'. Yet, not a single word has come from Modi's mouth. Trump is insulting our Prime Minister almost every day -- going from country to country claiming that Narendra Modi bowed before him, that he made him surrender. And still, Modi remains silent," the Congress MP said while addressing his maiden election rally in Bihar's Darbhanga. Rahul compared Modi's leadership with that of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

.....

BANGLADESH NATIONAL ANTHEM SUNG AT CONGRESS EVENT.

WHY IT'S NOT A PROBLEM

Diary Times Desk : The BJP unit in Assam has slammed the Congress over a video of a district-level leader singing Amar Sonar Bangla, Bangladesh's national anthem, at a party event in Sribhumi district. The BJP has called the Congress "Bangladesh-obsessed" and stated that this comes amid a row over a Bangladesh map that includes most of Northeast India.

The BJP's political attack on this subject is misplaced. Amar Sonar Bangla, meaning My Golden Bengal, was written by Rabindranath Tagore in 1905 as a protest against the first partition of Bengal. The move sparked widespread protests against the British, and the partition was undone in 1911. Bangladesh adopted Amar Sonar Bangla as its national anthem after its independence in 1971, nearly seven decades after it was written.

In Amar Sonar Bangla, Tagore writes about Bengal's natural beauty and the deep connection a Bengali feels with the land. Bengali speakers on both sides of the border sing Amar Sonar Bangla often at public and private events. In fact, several restaurants serving Bengali cuisine in different parts of India, including one in Delhi, are named Amar Sonar Bangla.

DK SHIVAKUMAR SAYS 'PEOPLE DON'T MARRY MEN
WITHOUT CARS', BJP MP RESPONDS



Diary Times Desk : Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's defence of Bengaluru's tunnel road project, in which he said "people don't marry daughters to men who don't own cars", has drawn a sharp response from BJP MP Tejasvi Surya. Surya, who met Shivakumar with a request to scrap the tunnel road project and expand mass transport, has taken a swipe, saying the tunnel road is "intended to solve a social problem - of people not wanting to marry a man without car". Earlier, Shivakumar said Tejasvi Surya doesn't understand the social obligations behind people buying cars. "Can I stop you from bringing your vehicle? It's a matter of social responsibility. People prefer to travel in their own vehicles with their families. Can we prevent them from using their cars? If needed, MPs can appeal to their constituents to leave their cars at home and use public transport.

.....

CCTV FOOTAGE SHOWS DOCTOR WHO
DIED BY SUICIDE ENTERING HOTEL ROOM
ALONE

Diary Times Desk : CCTV footage obtained from a hotel in Maharashtra's Satara district has confirmed that the 28-year-old woman doctor, whose death last week sparked political outrage, had checked into the lodge alone on the night she died. The footage, released by the hotel owner, counters claims made by some political figures that the incident may have been a case of murder disguised as suicide.

The doctor, who was posted at a government hospital in Satara and originally from Beed district, was found dead in her hotel room late on October 23. The discovery of a suicide note -- written on her palm -- accused two men: Police Sub-Inspector (PSI) Gopal Badane of sexual assault and software engineer Prashant Bankar of prolonged mental harassment. Both have since been arrested.

'TOUGH NUT TO CRACK': GITANJALI
ANGMO ON WHY SONAM WANGCHUK
WAS ARRESTED

Diary Times Desk : Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk's wife, Gitanjali Angmo, on Wednesday claimed her husband was detained following the violent Ladakh protests because the government did not want him to be involved in statehood talks with Kargil and Leh organisations as it felt he was a "tough nut to crack". Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) are the two main organisations engaged in discussions with the Centre about statehood and the implementation of the Sixth Schedule for Ladakh. Talking to reporters after filing an amended petition before the Supreme Court, wherein she challenged Wangchuk's detention under the National Security Act (NSA), Angmo said the climate activist was never "ever" a member of either the LAB or the KDA. But in July, a "unilateral decision" was taken by both bodies to include him as a member, she said. Wangchuk was detained under the stringent NSA on September 26, two days after violent protests demanding statehood and Sixth Schedule status for Ladakh left four people dead and 90 injured in the Union Territory. The government had accused him of inciting the violence. The NSA empowers the Centre and states to detain individuals to prevent them from acting in a manner "prejudicial to the defence of India". The maximum detention period is 12 months, though it can be revoked earlier.

THE RAFALE PILOT PAK LIED ABOUT CAPTURING, AND THE MIG-21 PILOT IT DID

Diary Times Desk : The Shivangi Singh Story

Born in Varanasi and assigned now to the 17 Squadron, the 'Golden Arrows' stationed in Ambala, Squadron Leader Singh is not just a path-breaking fighter pilot.

She will also go down in history as the pilot Pak lied about capturing, after propaganda claimed her Rafale had been shot down during Operation Sindoor and she taken prisoner.

The Indian government said as much on May 10, hours after Pak media claimed her capture, but it wasn't till she posed with President Droupadi Murmu Wednesday afternoon, with her Rafale in the background, that those claims were put to rest.

Who is Squadron Leader Singh?

Singh's journey to the Rafale cockpit began in 2017, when she was commissioned into the Air Force.



EACH CLOUD SEEDING SORTIE COSTS 60 LAKH. EXPERT EXPLAINS HOW IT WILL REDUCE

Diary Times Desk : Cloud seeding over Delhi for an entire winter would cost approximately Rs 25 crore, and this sum is a small portion of the budget to tackle the air pollution in the national capital, IIT Kanpur director Manindra Agrawal has told NDTV.

The senior academic was speaking a day after an expert team from IIT Kanpur oversaw two sorties of cloud seeding in Delhi. These trips, however, did not lead to rain.

The IIT Kanpur director said that cloud seeding did not cause rain yesterday due to low moisture content in the clouds over the national capital. The moisture content yesterday was around 15 per cent, and it must be around 50 per cent for cloud seeding to be successful.

Highlighting the takeaway from yesterday's exercise, Agrawal said the IIT team had installed measurement equipment at 15 locations in the national capital.

'MODI WILL DANCE FOR VOTES' VS 'NO VACANCY FOR LALU AND SONIA'S SONS': BIHAR BATTLE HEATS UP



Diary Times Desk : The Bihar election campaign heated up on Wednesday (October 29) with the opposition Mahagathbandhan kicking off its joint rallies addressed by Lok Sabha leader of opposition Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and the alliance's chief ministerial face Tejashwi Yadav, while Union home minister Amit Shah also hit the campaign trail in the state. Launching a scathing attack, Gandhi while addressing a rally in Muzaffarpur's Sakra said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was even "ready to dance" to get votes.

On the other hand Shah hit out at the Congress and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) for being dynastic parties and alleged that while both Lalu Prasad Yadav (RJD chief) and Sonia Gandhi (Congress MP) wanted to make their sons chief minister and prime minister respectively, no such vacancy was available.

BIHAR'S CASTE COUNTS: NDA AND MAHAGATHBANDHAN GIVE TICKETS TO CORE VOTE BLOCS

Diary Times Desk : As Bihar heads into a crucial electoral battle, its major political alliances-the NDA and the Mahagathbandhan (MGB)-have quietly shelved their lofty slogans in favor of hard-nosed caste arithmetic. The ticket distribution reveals a clear retreat to core vote banks, with parties prioritising winnability over inclusive representation.

Slogans vs Strategy

The MGB's progressive slogan "Jiski Jitni Sankhya Bhaari, Uski Utni Hissedaari" (representation proportional to population) and the NDA's inclusive "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vishwas" have been conspicuously absent from the ticket allocation strategy.

Instead, both alliances have reverted to their traditional support bases, focusing on consolidation rather than expansion.

PM ADDRESSES MARITIME LEADERS CONCLAVE AT INDIA MARITIME WEEK 2025 IN MUMBAI

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the Maritime Leaders Conclave and chaired the Global Maritime CEO Forum at India Maritime Week 2025 in Mumbai, Maharashtra today. Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister welcomed all participants to the Global Maritime Leaders Conclave. He remarked that the event began in Mumbai in 2016 and expressed happiness that it has now evolved into a global summit. Shri Modi highlighted that participation from over 85 countries sends a strong message. He noted the presence of CEOs of major shipping giants, startups, policymakers, and innovators, all gathered at the event. He further acknowledged the attendance of representatives from small island nations and stated that their collective vision has significantly enhanced the synergy and energy of the summit.

Noting that several projects related to the shipping sector have been launched at the conclave.

NO RELIGION ALLOWS DAMAGE TO ENVIRONMENT: EX-JUDGE ON CRACKERS, 'AZAAN'

Diary Times Desk : The former Supreme Court judge who headed the bench which ordered a year-round ban on firecrackers in Delhi-NCR has broken his silence on a recent order by the top court allowing the bursting of 'green crackers' during Diwali and said no religion condones the degradation of the environment.

"Judges should not get affected by popular or religious sentiments if they truly want to uphold the fundamental rights and fundamental duties, and if they truly want to protect the environment," former Supreme Court judge Justice Abhay S Oka said while delivering a lecture titled 'Clean Air, Climate Justice and We - Together for a Sustainable Future', organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association.

Explaining that bursting firecrackers, immersion of idols in water bodies, and using loudspeakers are not recognised as essential religious practices in the Constitution, Justice Oka said pollution is increasingly being justified in the name of religion.

COURT ORDERS PROTESTERS SEEKING FARM LOAN WAIVERS TO VACATE HIGHWAY IN NAGPUR

Diary Times Desk : The Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court on Wednesday directed Prahar Janshakti Party leader Bachchu Kadu and his supporters to immediately vacate the National Highway on the city's outskirts where they are staging a protest seeking full farm loan waiver.

A vacation bench of Justice Rajnish Vyas took suo motu (on its own) cognizance of the issue from media reports, and said Kadu and his supporters were continuing the agitation without permission.

The court said the right of the protesters can not be ignored, but the fact remains that a public road, more particularly, a National Highway, is blocked by the protestors which certainly violates fundamental right of the citizens to move freely throughout territory of India.

Thousands of protesters led by former Maharashtra minister Omprakash alias Bachchu Kadu are participating in the 'Maha Elgar Morcha'.



DAYS BEFORE HISTORY EXAM,
STUDENTS REALISE THEY STUDIED
THE WRONG CAESAR!

Diary Times Desk : Teachers at nine high schools in northeastern Australia discovered days before an ancient history exam that they had mistakenly taught their students about the wrong Roman ruler – Augustus Caesar instead of his predecessor, Julius Caesar.

The students in Queensland ended up being exempt from the statewide exam on Wednesday while Education Minister John-Paul Langbroek said he would investigate the mix-up, describing the experience for the students as “extremely traumatic”.

Since the error in the curriculum was discovered on Monday, schools applied – and were granted – an exemption from the exam for their students, even as panicked high schoolers were cramming about Julius Caesar’s exploits as a Roman general and statesman.

INDIA CONDEMNS 'BLINKERED' UN
REPORT, REJECTS CLAIM PAHALGAM
ATTACK IMPACTED MYANMAR
REFUGEES

Diary Times Desk : India has strongly condemned what it described as a “blinkered analysis” made against it in a UN report on Myanmar’s human rights situation, and asserted that the claim that the Pahalgam terrorist attack impacted displaced persons from Myanmar has “absolutely no factual bearing”.

India also reiterated its call for an immediate cessation of violence in Myanmar, underlining that sustainable peace can only be secured through inclusive political dialogue and early restoration of democratic processes through credible and participatory elections. Delivering India’s statement during the Interactive Dialogue on the human rights situation in Myanmar at the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly on Tuesday, Lok Sabha MP Dilip Saikia expressed serious objection to the “baseless and biased” observations made by the UN Special Rapporteur against India in its report on Myanmar’s human rights situation.

PARIS POLICE ACKNOWLEDGE MAJOR GAPS IN LOUVRE'S DEFENCES AFTER
JEWEL THEFT

Diary Times Desk : French police acknowledged major gaps in the Louvre’s defences on Wednesday – turning this month’s dazzling daylight theft into a national reckoning over how France protects its treasures.

Paris Police Chief Patrice Faure told Senate lawmakers that aging systems and slow-moving fixes left weak seams in the world’s most-visited museum.

“A technological step has not been taken,” he said, noting parts of the video network are even still analog, producing lower-quality images that are slow to share in real time.

DEATH TOLL FROM OVERNIGHT STRIKES
IN GAZA REACHES 81



Diary Times Desk : The death toll in Gaza from overnight Israeli strikes has climbed to 81, hospital officials said Wednesday.

Previously, at least 60 people, including many children, were reported killed. Shifa Hospital Director Mohammed Abu Selmia says the hospital received 21 more bodies killed in the strikes, including seven women and six children.

He said he expects the death toll to rise as many of the 45 wounded that the hospital located in Gaza City took in are in critical condition, among them 20 children.

DEFENCE MINISTER KHAWAJA ASIF
CALLS KABUL ‘TOOL FOR INDIA’ AS
PAKISTAN-AFGHANISTAN PEACE TALKS
FAIL

Diary Times Desk : Pakistan’s Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Tuesday night said that an agreement was about to be reached with Afghanistan, but Afghan negotiators backpedalled due to intervention from Kabul during the recent talks held in Turkiye. He also blamed India for the failure of talks, calling Kabul “a tool for Delhi”.

Speaking to Geo News, Asif said that Taliban negotiators went back on the agreement “four or five times” after receiving instructions from Kabul.

“Whenever we got close to an agreement – either in the last four days or last week – when negotiators reported to Kabul, then there was intervention and the agreement was withdrawn,” he said.

SAN FRANCISCO DOG
SURVIVES 200-FEET CLIFF
FALL, KISSES HIS RESCUERS

Diary Times Desk : A pet dog fell off an oceanside bluff in San Francisco and spent more than 20 minutes clinging to a narrow ledge until firefighters came to its rescue, officials said.

The brown and white dog was playing with another pooch on Tuesday at Fort Funston, a coastal park with steep bluffs that can drop up to 200 feet to the beach below.

The dog, which was not familiar with the area, slipped on some vegetation, lost its traction and fell over the cliff, said Rescue Captain Samuel Menchaca of the San Francisco Fire Department.

Firefighters sent a team to retrieve the canine, which had found temporary refuge on a ledge about 40 feet below the top of the cliff. A San Francisco police drone operator who happened to be in the area heard the emergency call go out and captured an aerial view of the dog’s location, which he relayed to firefighters.

OVER 100 YEARS LATER, WWI
SOLDIERS' MESSAGES IN
BOTTLE FOUND ON
AUSTRALIAN BEACH

Diary Times Desk : Messages in a bottle written by two Australian soldiers a few days into their voyage to the battlefields of France during World War I have been found more than a century later on Australia’s coast.

The Brown family found the Schweppes-brand bottle just above the waterline at Wharton Beach near Esperance in Western Australia state on Oct 9, Deb Brown said on Tuesday. Her husband Peter and daughter Felicity made the find during one of the family’s regular quad bike expeditions to clear the beach of trash.

“We do a lot of cleaning up on our beaches and so would never go past a piece of rubbish. So this little bottle was lying there waiting to be picked up,” Deb Brown said.

Inside the clear, thick glass were cheerful letters written in pencil by Privates Malcolm Neville, 27, and Willi Their troop ship HMAT A70 Ballarat had left the South Australia state capital Adelaide to the east on Aug 12 of that year on the long journey to the other side of the world where its soldiers would reinforce the 48th Australian Infantry Battalion on Europe’s Western Front.



AHEAD OF TRUMP-XI MEET, CHINA SLAMS TRADE 'BULLYING' AND PROTECTIONISM



Diary Times Desk : China's vice president hit out at "bullying" and protectionism on Tuesday in a clear reference to the trade war with the United States, two days before the countries' leaders meet. Han Zheng warned globalisation was under "serious strain" in an address to the Future Investment Initiative (FII), a major conference in Saudi Arabia's capital, Riyadh.

"Rising trade protectionism, increasing unilateralism and bullying and deficiency in the multilateral governance system -- all these add to the uncertainty of the global political and economic landscape," Han said through a translator.

"We need to rise above differences in social systems and development stages, and look for commonalities on the basis of mutual respect," he added.

Chinese President Xi Jinping and US leader Donald Trump are scheduled to meet on Thursday in South Korea to seek an agreement that would end the trade war.

NORTH KOREA TEST-FIRES MISSILE AHEAD OF TRUMP-XI MEETING IN SOUTH KOREA

Diary Times Desk : North Korea test launched sea-to-surface cruise missiles off its western coast Tuesday, state media said, a day before US President Donald Trump is set to begin a visit to South Korea.

The missiles were launched vertically from the Yellow Sea and flew for over two hours, state news agency KCNA said on Wednesday.

Top military official Pak Jong Chon oversaw the test and said "important successes" were being achieved in developing the North's "nuclear forces" as a war deterrent, according to KCNA.

Notably absent from the test was leader Kim Jong Un, who frequently oversees important missile launches.

DOING A TRADE DEAL WITH INDIA SOON: TRUMP IN SOUTH KOREA; CALLS MODI 'NICEST-LOOKING GUY'

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump on Wednesday said he was going to do a trade deal with India and had great respect for PM Narendra Modi.

"If you look at India and Pakistan -- so I am doing a trade deal with India and have great respect and love for Prime Minister Narendra Modi. We have a great relationship," said Trump on Wednesday in South Korea, on the last leg of his Asia tour.

Noting that the US and India would have a trade deal soon, Trump also said Modi was the "nicest looking guy" and "tough as hell."

Although it was not immediately clear when the long-delayed trade deal would come through, Trump's positive remarks signalled that India and the US may have resolved some sticking points around US anxieties about Indian purchase of Russian oil and Indian anxieties about the US insistence on opening up the farm sector for American imports.

Trump was speaking at the APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) CEOs luncheon in Gyeongju, South Korea.



OUTRAGE AFTER ACCUSED SIKH TRUCK DRIVER APPEARS IN US COURT WITHOUT TURBAN

Diary Times Desk : A 21-year-old Indian truck driver, accused of causing a fatal crash in California, appeared in a US court without his turban, leading to outrage among Sikhs. A petition demanding the immediate return of his turban and respect for his religious identity has since been launched.

Jashanpreet Singh pleaded not guilty to vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and driving under the influence of a drug during his court appearance last week. The October 21 crash near California's Ontario involved eight vehicles. Three people were killed and four others injured.

The Change.org petition, addressed to the Media Regulatory Authority and local law enforcement agencies, has condemned what it calls the unjust portrayal and treatment of Singh.

BRAZIL'S 'BLOODIEST' POLICE RAID: 132 KILLED IN DRUG GANG CRACKDOWN

Diary Times Desk :

The deadliest police operation in Brazil's history killed at least 132 people, officials said on Wednesday, after Rio de Janeiro residents lined a street with dozens of corpses collected overnight, a week ahead of global climate events in the city.

The tally from the Rio public defender's office was more than double the death toll released on Tuesday, when state authorities reported at least 64 dead, including four police officers. The raids were targeting a major drug gang, the state government said.

Rio Governor Claudio Castro said the initial tally had only counted bodies processed in the public morgue.

Penha residents who went looking for lost relatives had collected many of the corpses from a forested area behind their neighbourhood, according to people at the scene, where more than 70 of the bodies were lined up in the middle of the street.

Governor Castro said he was certain those dead from the operation were criminals, as much of the gunfire was in a wooded area. "I don't think anyone would be walking in the forest on the day of the conflict," he told reporters.

"The only real victims were the police officers," he said.

The police operation came days before Rio hosts global events related to the United Nations climate summit known as COP30, including the C40 global summit of mayors tackling climate change and British Prince William's Earthshot Prize.

SOUTH KOREA TO HONOUR TRUMP WITH GOLD CROWN AND TOP STATE AWARD FOR 'PEACE EFFORTS'

Diary Times Desk : South Korea will welcome U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday with a replica gold crown and award him with the "Grand Order of Mugunghwa", the country's highest decoration, the presidential office said.

Trump landed in South Korea on the final leg of a trip through Asia that also saw stops in Malaysia and Japan, with high-profile trade talks expected with South Korean President Lee Jae Myung and Chinese President Xi Jinping. U.S. and South Korean warplanes escorted Air Force One on approach, and on the tarmac a South Korean military band greeted Trump with a rendition of "YMCA" and guns fired a salute. Lee is hoping to win concessions from Trump in drawn out negotiations aimed at lowering U.S. tariffs on South Korea, and has wooed the U.S. president by praising his outreach to North Korea.



US SENATE PASSES LEGISLATION TO OVERTURN TRUMP'S TARIFFS ON BRAZIL

Diary Times Desk : The Republican-led US Senate passed legislation on Tuesday that would overturn President Donald Trump's tariffs against Brazil by terminating the national emergency he declared in July in retaliation for Brazil's prosecution of its former president, Jair Bolsonaro, for an alleged coup attempt. In the first of three tariff bills expected in the Senate this week, lawmakers approved the Brazil measure 52-48, with five Republicans crossing partisan lines to back the measure. Legislative measures to terminate Trump's tariffs on Canada and his tariffs against other countries around the globe are expected to come up for votes later this week. The vote sent the Brazil measure on to the Republican-controlled US House of Representatives, where it is expected to be shelved. House Republicans have repeatedly voted to block action on legislation to end Trump's tariffs.

WHY POKROVSK IS KEY TO RUSSIA'S NEXT BIG PUSH IN UKRAINE

Diary Times Desk : Russian forces are close to taking the eastern Ukrainian city of Pokrovsk after a pincer movement almost totally encircled it while small groups of highly mobile Russian units penetrated the city, according to Russian military bloggers. What is Pokrovsk? Pokrovsk is a road and rail hub in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region with a pre-war population of some 60,000 people. Most people have now fled, all children have been evacuated, and few civilians remain. It lies on a key road which has been used by the Ukrainian military. Ukraine's only mine producing coking coal - used in its once vast steel industry - is around six miles (10 km) west of Pokrovsk. Ukrainian steelmaker Metinvest said in January it had suspended mining operations there.

LAKSHMI MITTAL'S ENERGY FIRM SUSPENDS RUSSIAN OIL PURCHASES, CITING US SANCTIONS

Diary Times Desk : Steel tycoon Lakshmi Mittal's energy joint venture, HPCL-Mittal Energy Ltd (H MEL), on Wednesday announced that it has suspended further purchases of Russian crude oil in view of the recent sanctions.

H MEL, an equal partnership between the Mittal Group and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), has become the first Indian refiner to formally declare that it will halt Russian oil imports after the United States imposed sanctions on major Russian producers.

In an official statement, the company said it had so far been purchasing Russian crude on a delivered basis, meaning the suppliers handled shipping arrangements. It added that all ships that arrived at Indian ports for such deliveries were unsanctioned.

H MEL suspends purchases of Russian crude

"H MEL has already taken the decision to suspend further purchases of Russian crude upon recent announcements of new restrictions on imports of crude oil from Russia by the United States, European Union and United Kingdom, pending receipt of any outstanding orders," it added.



HEAT-RELATED DEATHS AROUND THE WORLD TOP HALF A MILLION A YEAR: STUDY

Diary Times Desk : Soaring temperatures are killing nearly 550,000 people around the world each year, part of a heat death toll that's climbed more than 20% on a population-adjusted basis since the 1990s, according to the latest edition of the Lancet's annual report on climate and health. "That's approximately one heat-related death every minute throughout the year," says Ollie Jay, a heat and health expert at the University of Sydney and a co-author of the new report. "So this is a really startling number." It's the first year that the medical journal has reported the total number of global heat-related deaths, which it calculated through recent advances in methods to estimate heat-related deaths and better access to detailed death data in different countries. (The Lancet has previously shared percentage increases in such deaths.)

SOUTH KOREA'S PRESIDENT LEE WARNS PROTECTIONISM AND NATIONALISM ARE RISING

Diary Times Desk : South Korean President Lee Jae Myung said on Wednesday that the global economy was facing a crisis of rising protectionism and nationalism.

Speaking at the Asia-Pacific Economic Forum (APEC) CEO summit, Lee said South Korea would lead multilateral cooperation to seek to find solutions, including for supply chain problems.

"In an era where protectionism and nationalism are on the rise... the words 'cooperation, coexistence, and inclusive growth' may sound hollow," Lee said.

"Paradoxically, APEC's role as a platform for solidarity will shine even brighter in times of crisis like these."

Compared to 2005, when South Korea hosted another APEC summit, "the external environment surrounding APEC in 2025 is quite different," Lee said.

Lee said that as a responsible global power, South Korea could significantly contribute to restoring trust and cooperation within the APEC region, including for "supply chain cooperation".

'EITHER THERE IS TRUCE OR WAR': GAZA REELS AS ISRAELI STRIKES KILL OVER 100



Diary Times Desk : Israel said it had carried out strikes on dozens of Hamas targets following the death of a soldier, with Gaza experiencing its deadliest night of bombing since a US-brokered truce went into effect earlier this month.

After the strikes, the Israeli military said it had begun "renewed enforcement of the ceasefire", though explosions could still be seen on an AFP live video feed of the Gaza skyline after the statement was issued.

US President Donald Trump, who helped to broker the nearly three-week-old truce, had earlier said that nothing would be allowed to jeopardise it, but he also endorsed Israel's right to "hit back" if attacked.

Gaza's civil defence agency said the strikes killed more than 100 people, including at least 35 children, a toll confirmed by an AFP tally of medical sources at five hospitals in Gaza.

The territory's main Al-Shifa hospital said one strike hit its backyard.

PAKISTAN'S ISI FINDS A NEW BASE IN BANGLADESH: HOW THE SECRET DEAL PUTS INDIA'S EASTERN FLANK AT RISK

Diary Times Desk : In what intelligence officials describe as a troubling sign of deepening defence and intelligence ties between Pakistan and Bangladesh, Islamabad has quietly established a special Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) cell within its High Commission in Dhaka, according to top intelligence sources quoted by CNN-News18.

The development comes amid a rapid expansion of military cooperation between the two countries since the fall of Sheikh Hasina's government in 2024, signalling a potential strategic realignment in South Asia that could directly challenge India's security interests. Sources told CNN-News18 that the move formalises a growing pattern of collaboration between Pakistan's spy agency and Bangladesh's military establishment under the Muhammad Yunus-led interim regime.

Pakistan's ISI cell in Dhaka: What we know

According to CNN-News18, the ISI cell was established following a four-day visit by Pakistan's Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, to Dhaka. During his visit, Mirza met Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus and the chiefs of Bangladesh's army, navy, and air force.

BRITONS 'FEARED FOR THEIR LIVES' DURING HURRICANE

Diary Times Desk : A dad from Greater Manchester said he feared for his family's lives as Hurricane Melissa tore across Jamaica.

Kyle Holmes and his family, visiting the Caribbean island from Bolton for his mum's wedding, were forced to hunker down in their Hanover Parish hotel room for 20 hours.

Mr Holmes, whose wife and three young children were with him, told BBC North West Tonight he felt "the building was just getting ready to take off" as gusts peaked at 185mph (295km/h).

"It was like being like in a war zone - it was horrible," he added. "All the windows were shaking and things were getting thrown at us."

The Holmes family had travelled to the Grand Palladium Resort, in the town of Lucea on the island's north-west coast, for the wedding on Monday.

Once the ceremony had finished, they had to be kept inside the hotel as wind speeds increased.

INDIA-BOUND RUSSIAN OIL TANKER MAKES U-TURN IN BALTIC SEA AMID US SANCTIONS

Diary Times Desk : An India-bound tanker filled with Russian crude reversed course and is now idling in the Baltic Sea, a sign of potential disruption in oil trade between the two countries after the US tightened sanctions on Moscow.

The Furia was moving westward in a strait between Denmark and Germany when it turned around on Tuesday and sailed for a short distance before slowing down drastically, ship-tracking data showed. The Aframax is carrying a cargo sold by Rosneft PJSC, according to Kpler.

The vessel's U-turn in the Fehmarn Belt occurred a week after the US slapped sanctions on state-owned Rosneft and fellow Russian oil giant Lukoil PJSC. Transactions involving the two companies must be wound down by Nov. 21, the Treasury Department said.

'A TRUE GENOCIDE': RSF KILLS 'AT LEAST 1,500 PEOPLE' IN SUDAN'S EL-FASHER

Diary Times Desk : Scores of people have been killed in attacks by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) during their recent capture of the city of el-Fasher in Sudan's western Darfur region, according to a medical group and researchers.

The RSF, which has been fighting Sudan's military for control of the country, killed at least 1,500 people over the past three days as civilians tried to flee the besieged city, the Sudan Doctors Network said on Wednesday. The group, which tracks the country's civil war, described the situation as "a true genocide".

"The massacres the world is witnessing today are an extension of what occurred in el-Fasher more than a year and a half ago, when over 14,000 civilians were killed through bombing, starvation, and extrajudicial executions," the group said.

It said the attacks are being carried out as part of a "deliberate and systematic campaign of killing and extermination".

The statement comes as new evidence of mass killings in the strategic area has emerged from Yale's Humanitarian Research Lab (HRL), which reported that satellite imagery of el-Fasher, taken after the RSF moved in, shows clusters of objects consistent with the size of human bodies, as well as large areas of red discolouration on the ground.



BRITONS 'FEARED FOR THEIR LIVES' DURING HURRICANE

Diary Times Desk : A dad from Greater Manchester said he feared for his family's lives as Hurricane Melissa tore across Jamaica.

Kyle Holmes and his family, visiting the Caribbean island from Bolton for his mum's wedding, were forced to hunker down in their Hanover Parish hotel room for 20 hours.

Mr Holmes, whose wife and three young children were with him, told BBC North West Tonight he felt "the building was just getting ready to take off" as gusts peaked at 185mph (295km/h).

"It was like being like in a war zone - it was horrible," he added. "All the windows were shaking and things were getting thrown at us."

The Holmes family had travelled to the Grand Palladium Resort, in the town of Lucea on the island's north-west coast, for the wedding on Monday.

Once the ceremony had finished, they had to be kept inside the hotel as wind speeds increased.

TRUMP AND XI ARE SET
FOR A HIGH-STAKES
SUMMIT. A
BREAKDOWN OF EACH
LEADER'S AGENDA

Diary Times Desk :
US President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping are poised to hold a high-stakes summit in South Korea on Thursday, as the world's two largest economies struggle to resolve a protracted trade conflict that has upended the global economy.

Tensions have flared again in recent weeks over Washington's expansion of export controls and China's tightening of rare earth export curbs. The tit-for-tat escalation prompted Trump to vow new 100% tariffs on Chinese goods starting November 1.

But the United States and China made apparent progress over the weekend after the latest round of trade talks in Malaysia. Their trade deal framework set the stage for a sit-down between Trump and Xi on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation CEO summit in South Korea. It will be the first in-person meeting between the two leaders since the American president returned to the White House in January. He last met Xi in 2019, during the G20 summit in Osaka, Japan.

THE FED WILL PROBABLY
CUT RATES TODAY. THE
SHUTDOWN COULD
MAKE FUTURE CUTS
MORE DIFFICULT

Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump has spent much of the year urging the Federal Reserve to deliver aggressive rate cuts in order to boost the economy. But the government shutdown ironically threatens the very momentum the administration seeks to preserve. That's because the shutdown has suspended the release of most official economic statistics the Fed relies on to set rates and steer the economy.

Central bankers agreed last month to start cutting rates for the first time since December. That's because data through August showed a weakening labor market that seems increasingly at risk of falling off a cliff.

The Fed is set to announce a quarter-point rate cut on Wednesday at 2 p.m. ET.

THE WORLD'S MOST VALUABLE COMPANY JUST BLEW THROUGH AN
UNPRECEDENTED MILESTONE

Diary Times Desk : Nvidia just became the world's first \$5 trillion company.

Unprecedented demand for the company's AI chips has propelled the company's market valuation into the stratosphere. The milestone, which Nvidia reached at Wednesday's open, comes just three months after the company crossed the \$4 trillion mark. It took Nvidia about 13 months to go from \$3 trillion to \$4 trillion in valuation.

The company's shares (NVDA) rose 3% after the market opened on Wednesday. Nvidia stock has gained about 50% in 2025 and has been near or at the top of the S&P 500's best-performing stocks for years as investment in artificial intelligence continues to fuel the chipmaker's meteoric rise. Boosting Nvidia's stock Wednesday: hopes for discussions between US President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping that open up China's market to Nvidia's high-end AI chips. Nvidia's AI chips are essential to powering the data centers that run the technology. The company is central to the AI boom not just because of those chips that are making it tons of money, but also because of the investments it's pouring into other major players.

AFTER A WAVE OF LAWSUITS, CHARACTER.AI WILL NO LONGER LET
TEENS CHAT WITH ITS CHATBOTS

Diary Times Desk : Chatbot platform Character.AI will no longer allow teens to engage in back-and-forth conversations with its AI-generated characters, its parent company Character Technologies said on Wednesday. The move comes after a string of lawsuits alleged the app played a role in suicide and mental health issues among teens.

The company will make the change by November 25, and teens will have a two-hour chat limit in the meantime. Instead of open-ended conversations, teens under 18 will be able to create videos, stories and streams with characters.

"We do not take this step of removing open-ended Character chat lightly - but we do think that it's the right thing to do given the questions that have been raised about how teens do, and should, interact with this new technology," the company said in its statement.

PARAMOUNT BEGINS STEEP LAYOFFS AS DAVID ELLISON RESHAPES THE
MEDIA GIANT

Diary Times Desk : The new Paramount is laying off about 10% of its workforce, achieving some of the cost savings that CEO David Ellison promised investors when he took charge of the media company over the summer. Many divisions of Paramount Skydance will be impacted, from the iconic movie studio to CBS News to Comedy Central. About a thousand jobs are expected to be cut this week, and another thousand in the near future, as a new management team reorganizes the company. Ellison, who headed the production company Skydance and merged it with the much larger Paramount, said in a memo on Wednesday morning that "these steps are necessary to position Paramount for long-term success." "In some areas, we are addressing redundancies that have emerged across the organization," he said. "In others, we are phasing out roles that are no longer aligned with our evolving priorities and the new structure designed to strengthen our focus on growth." Steep cuts and sweeping changes are common after mergers, but Paramount has gone through multiple rounds of layoffs in recent years.



ADIDAS SALES IN NORTH AMERICA DROP OVER TARIFFS AND END OF YEEZYS

Diary Times Desk :
Adidas’ group sales dipped 5% in North America in the third quarter, weighed down by the end of the popular Yeezy sneaker line last year and a volatile global environment affected by US tariffs. Global revenues, meanwhile, grew 3% to hit 6.63 billion euros (\$7.73 billion) – a record, according to CEO Bjorn Gulden. Adidas has sought to put the Yeezy affair behind it since ending the highly profitable partnership with the brand’s designer – the rapper Ye, formerly known as Kanye West – over his antisemitic rants. The loss of the line dented revenues, driving the company to an annual loss in 2023. It sold its last pair of Yeezy shoes at the end of 2024.

DAVID ELLISON MAY HAVE A ‘TRUMP CARD’ – LITERALLY – IN WARNER BROS. DISCOVERY PURSUIT

Diary Times Desk :
Paramount Skydance CEO David Ellison is “undeterred” after Warner Bros. Discovery rebuffed his first three offers to buy the media giant, according to a person who has been advising Ellison. The next move is unknown. But both Ellison and Warner Bros. Discovery CEO David Zaslav are playing their parts perfectly in this M&A struggle over one of the biggest media companies in the world. Warner Bros. Discovery, the parent of CNN, HBO Max, DC Comics, Cartoon Network, and a storied list of other brands, said earlier this week that it had started a deal review process “after receiving interest from multiple parties.” The newly formed Paramount Skydance is at the top of the list, as Ellison tries to rapidly grow his media empire. Ellison’s allies are privately arguing that he is the only buyer who would pass muster with Trump administration regulators. “That’s the Trump card,” an adviser remarked, enjoying the double entendre.

The adviser, like the other sources for this story, spoke on condition of anonymity because the companies are not commenting publicly.

PROFITS SOAR FOR UBS IN THIRD QUARTER, EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS



Diary Times Desk : UBS said third-quarter net profit surged 74%, comfortably beating expectations as revenue shot higher on financial market volatility caused by global tariff turmoil, as well as renewed M&A activity. Switzerland’s largest bank also said it was confident in its plans for \$3 billion in share buybacks this year and its financial targets for 2026. It noted, however, that macro uncertainties, a strong Swiss franc and higher US tariffs were clouding the outlook for the Swiss economy. Shares in UBS rose 2.5% in morning trade. UBS (UBS) expects deal activity to remain healthy in the fourth quarter, but said “sentiment can shift quickly as confidence in the outlook is tested.” A prolonged US government shutdown could delay capital market activities, it added.UBS also said it intends to appeal a Swiss court decision, already challenged by Swiss market regulator FINMA, that the writing off of 16.5 billion Swiss francs in Credit Suisse bonds was unlawful. The bank has no plans to make any provisions in relation to the case, UBS said.

CANADIANS MAD ABOUT TRUMP’S TRADE WAR AVOIDED THE US. THEN THE BLUE JAYS MADE IT TO THE WORLD SERIES



Diary Times Desk : Vancouver attorney Grant Murray used to travel to the United States frequently until the US-Canadian trade dispute led him to wage his own personal travel boycott. But as much as he loves his country and wants to support it, he loves his Toronto Blue Jays more. So he was at Dodgers Stadium in Los Angeles on Tuesday night with his brother Kevin, who traveled all the way from Australia, to take in their first World Series game. “The Canadian economy is being hurt. Lots of people are very concerned about their future,” he said. “There’s a level of solidarity that I support, but I guess I’m now a hypocrite because I’m supporting the Blue Jays more than the boycott.” Murray isn’t the only Canadian who was boycotting trips to the United States this year.

Canadians are usually the top foreign travelers to the United States, with 20.2 million visits in 2024, according to data from industry trade group the US Travel Association. But the group expects that Canadian travel to the United States will drop to 15.7 million this year, a 22% decline. Three days of the World Series games aren’t going to make up for that estimated loss – but they are driving some travel from Canadians. Ticket resale service StubHub estimates that 8% of the tickets it sold to the three World Series games in Los Angeles went to Canadian customers. SeatGeek, Major League Baseball’s official reseller, estimates that 3% of its LA game sales are to Canadians. Those figures likely represent thousands of Los Angeles World Series tickets over three days, though neither company releases specific ticket sales numbers.

Living in Vancouver, Murray finds it easier to see the Jays in Seattle than in Toronto. But he passed up regular season games there this year. He also passed up once-frequent US trips elsewhere to see his team.

FLOATING LOGS:
HIMACHAL GOVT
DENIES ILLEGAL FELLING,
ATTRIBUTES IT TO
HEAVY RAINFALL,
CLOUDBURSTS,
LANDSLIDES

Diary Times Desk : More than a month after the Supreme Court flagged alleged illegal felling of trees after videos of wooden logs floating in floodwaters went viral; the Himachal Pradesh Government has attributed it to sudden heavy rainfall, cloudbursts, landslides and glacier movement leading to extensive flooding.

In an affidavit filed in the top court earlier this month, Additional Chief Secretary (Forests) Kamlesh Kumar Pant said “that such incidents result in large-scale uprooting of trees which are carried downstream as driftwood and accumulate along with the riverbanks.”

The affidavit denied that the timber logs seen floating in floodwaters were from trees felled uphill in the catchment areas of the Ravi and the Beas.

Maintaining that “one cannot rule out stray and isolated cases of illegal felling in the region,” the state government sought to emphasize that the “State Forest Department takes immediate legal action against the violators as per existing Acts, Rules and Regulations.”

AS CHANCELLOR, I HAVE
AUTHORITY TO APPOINT
VICE CHANCELLORS:
HIMACHAL GOVERNOR
SHUKLA

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla said today that if the state government chooses to bypass him in the appointment of Vice Chancellors, he will deal with it according to the directives of the Supreme Court.

He was responding to the media about the face-off between Raj Bhawan and the state government over the appointment of Vice Chancellors to government universities after flagging off Red Cross relief material for disaster-affected families in Kullu and Chamba from Raj Bhawan.

PUNJAB DIG BRIBERY CASE: COURT SENDS ‘MIDDLEMAN’ KIRSHANU SHARDA TO
9-DAY CBI REMAND

Diary Times Desk : The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Court, Chandigarh, has granted a 9-day remand of Kirshanu Sharda — who was arrested along with suspended Punjab Police DIG Harcharan Singh Bhullar in an alleged bribery case — to the CBI.

The CBI had filed the application before the Chandigarh CBI court under Section 187 of the BNSS, 2023, seeking Sharda's police custody for 12 days.

He was produced in a court today. The CBI had arrested him from Sector 21, Chandigarh, red-handed while accepting a bribe, purportedly on behalf of DIG Harcharan Singh Bhullar, on October 16.

As per the FIR, the officer was allegedly seeking recurring monthly illegal payments from the complainant through Kirshanu Sharda.



FIRING AT PUNJABI SINGER CHANNI
NATTAN’S HOUSE IN CANADA;
BISHNOI GANG CLAIMS
RESPONSIBILITY

Diary Times Desk : A day after the murder of Punjabi industrialist Darshan Singh Sahsi, gunshots were fired at the house of Punjabi singer Channi Nattan in Canada. The Lawrence Bishnoi gang has claimed responsibility for both -- the killing of Sahsi and the shooting incident at Nattan's house. The gang said the industrialist was targeted because he refused to pay extortion money. Police investigation into both the incidents is on, and security has been tightened to protect potential targets within the Indo-Canadian community. The Bishnoi gang is a notorious criminal syndicate led by Lawrence Bishnoi, who has been imprisoned in India since 2014 but continues to control criminal operations from prison. The gang has a vast network involving hundreds of members engaged in extortion, targeted killings, drug trafficking, and armed violence across India and internationally, including Canada. The group gained prominence after high-profile crimes like the killing of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala in 2022 and has been designated a terrorist entity by Canadian authorities due to its transnational criminal activities.

11 ILLEGAL FARM HOUSES
CONSTRUCTED ON DE-LISTED
FOREST LAND DEMOLISHED IN
ROPAR’S BARDAR VILLAGE

Diary Times Desk : In a major crackdown on long-standing illegal constructions on de-listed forest lands in Ropar district, Town Planning Department has demolished 11 unauthorised structures, including farmhouses built over the years in the Bardar forest area of Ropar. Sources said that these illegal structures were built in gross violation of Section 4 of the Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA) 1900. As per the directions of the Supreme Court in the Godavarman v/s Union of India case, lands that were under PLPA but under cultivation before 1996 were allowed to be de-listed from Section 4 of the PLPA Act. However, the de-listed land could not be used for any purpose other than agriculture or agro-forestry. Under this provision, about 55 acres of land in the Bardar village of Ropar were de-listed. The sources said that structures were built after an IFS officer permitted their construction in the Bardar village as part of the ecotourism policy. However, the orders of the IFS officer were struck down by the Secretary of Forests, but the owners of the land went ahead with the construction of farmhouses on the land anyway.



YOUR HOROSCOPE

30-10-2025

Aries
Today, you will meet old friends, which will refresh old memories. Employed people may be fired from the job due to heavy arguments with colleagues in the workplace. People doing business should thank God for getting financial benefits from the advice of their spouse. Due to irritation in the eyes, you should consult an ophthalmologist.



Taurus
Today you will get success as your long pending legal proceedings will come in your favor. There will be an atmosphere of happiness in the family as employed people will get progress in their workplace. People doing business should make a budget and spend the money in order to get financial benefits. Housewives should change their food according to health and season.



Gemini
Today you should include yoga and meditation in your daily routine. For employed people, your responsibilities may increase due to promotion in the workplace. People doing business may suffer financial loss from any unknown person today. There may be difficulty in walking due to nerve pain problems.



Cancer
Today you will get relief from all your problems due to sudden financial gain. Employed people may have to get scolded by their boss due to being hasty in the workplace. People doing business may face increased difficulties in business due to arguments with business partners. As the problem of foot pain increases, you must consult a specialist doctor.



Leo
Today, you should offer water to Lord Shiva to avoid difficulties. A heated argument with HR in the workplace will spoil your whole day. Businessmen have to exercise patience, there are chances of improvement in business. Today, you may face stomach and pancreas problems due to eating too much fried food.



Virgo
Today you should take special control over your speech and behavior. People in employment will get success in the workplace with the help of friends. People doing business will get financial gain due to some special offer, your financial condition will be strengthened. Old diseases of elders in the house may emerge.



Sagittarius
Today you should take all important decisions of your career thoughtfully. Employed people may have to face some problems due to the start of a new job in the workplace. Due to financial gain for business people, you can invest in a new business. Problems like leg pain and headache may bother you.



Capricorn
Today you can invest especially in land and buildings. Employed people may have to travel long distances due to office work, due to which your health may deteriorate. People doing business may face difficulties in repaying business loans due to loss of money. High BP and cholesterol problems will increase the problems of your spouse.



Aquarius
Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. Employees will be suspended due to indiscipline in the workplace. People doing business should solve all the problems of their customers in time. Due to worsening weather, problems related to cold and cough may increase in the family.



Scorpio
Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. Employed people may have to face mental problems due to extra workload in the workplace. People doing business may have to travel abroad in connection with business expansion. Diabetic patients should get themselves checked by a doctor in case of any problem today.



Pisces
Today your interest in creative work will especially increase. Employed people may be given an important project by their boss to handle important projects in the workplace. People doing business should control their speech and behavior with their customers. You should walk carefully on the road, problems may arise due to injury.

PUNJAB DGP
MOHAMMAD
MUSTAFA'S SON HAD
IDEOLOGICAL
DIFFERENCES WITH HIS
FAMILY: SIT

Diary Times Desk : ACP Vikram Nehra, head of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) in the death of former Punjab DGP Mohammad Mustafa's son Aqil Akhtar, said there was undoubtedly some tension between the father and son. "The nine police personnel who were deployed for the security of his house were questioned on Tuesday. We will also question all their house help on Thursday. Our search of the house is complete. We have also found the phone and laptop of the deceased. There is no doubt about the tension between the son and father. Aqil had ideological differences with his family. He even mentioned this in the viral video. Our first priority is to find out the cause of death. We have not yet called the family for questioning," the SIT head said. Meanwhile, the Haryana government has sought a CBI probe into the case registered against former Punjab Director General of Police (Human Rights) Mohammad Mustafa, his wife and former Congress minister Razia Sultana, their daughter, and daughter-in-law in connection with the death of Aqil.

GANGSTER SARDHANIA
REVEALS GLOBAL
ESCAPE VIA 'DONKEY
ROUTE' BEFORE ARREST

Diary Times Desk : Gangster Sunil Sardhanian, the main accused in the firing on Haryanvi singer Rahul Fazilpuria and the murder of property dealer Rohit Shaukeen, has revealed during interrogation that he travelled through 15 countries using the illegal 'donkey route' after obtaining a passport on fake documents. Sardhanian, who was arrested by the Gurugram Police from the Delhi International Airport early on Sunday, is currently on five days' police remand. Officials said after acquiring a forged passport from Delhi, Sardhanian first flew to Dubai, from where he travelled illegally through 15 countries and eventually reached the Rico Coast in Central America. He was preparing to enter the US when he was detained and brought back to India.

PRESIDENT MURMU TAKES SORTIE IN RAFALE FIGHTER JET FROM AMBALA AIR
FORCE STATION

Diary Times Desk : In her second sortie in a combat aircraft, the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, flew in a Rafale fighter from the Air Force Station, Ambala on Wednesday. Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, flew alongside her in a separate aircraft. The 40-minute sortie, with the call sign Golden Arrow One and piloted by Group Captain Amit Gehani, Commanding Officer of No.17 Squadron, was over parts of Haryana within the designated local flying area of the airbase, the oldest in India. The aircraft flew at a height of about 15,000 feet above sea level and at a speed of about 700 km per hour. "The sortie on Rafale is an unforgettable experience for me. This first flight on the potent Rafale aircraft has instilled in me a renewed sense of pride in the nation's defence capabilities. I congratulate the Indian Air Force and the entire team of Air Force Station.



KAITHAL COPS BUST ILLEGAL
IMMIGRATION RACKET; FIVE YOUTHS
RESCUED FROM LIBYA

Diary Times Desk : The rescue of five youths – three from Kaithal district and two from Ferozepur in Punjab – from Libya has once again laid bare the growing network of illegal immigration and human trafficking thriving across the region. The Kaithal police carried out the rescue operation after tracing the gang that had allegedly held the youths hostage.

According to police investigations, several fraudulent agents posing as overseas employment facilitators continue to ensnare young job seekers with false promises of lucrative careers and better lives in countries like the US, Canada and Australia.

The pattern, officers say, is not new. Over the past three years, Kaithal police have arrested 21 persons in connection with human trafficking, kidnapping and extortion and rescued 19 victims from their clutches. Last week's operation followed a similar modus operandi. The gang allegedly kidnapped youths under the pretext of sending them to Canada and later demanded ransom.

DISTRICT FISHERIES OFFICER GETS
3-YEAR JAIL TERM FOR SEXUAL
HARASSMENT AT WORKPLACE

Diary Times Desk : A Kurukshetra court has sentenced District Fisheries Officer Suresh Kumar to three years' rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 61,000 for sexually harassing his junior Dalit colleague at the workplace.

The complainant, a Fisheries Officer, told the court that her immediate senior, Suresh Kumar, repeatedly humiliated her, calling her by her caste name and insisting that she must "obey his legal or illegal orders." She said he cancelled her child care leave in January 2022 and threatened to "ruin her service and Annual Confidential Report (ACR)" if she did not comply with his demands.

During her medical leave from January 25 to February 7, 2022, she received a WhatsApp call from the accused, who told her that she had appeared in his dreams and that she "had to fulfil all his desires and come under his feet." The complainant alleged that Suresh Kumar also withheld her salary for February 2022.

OVER 30 SHOTS FIRED AT MUSIC COMPANY'S OFFICE IN KARNAL, PANIC GRIPS
ALPHA CITY

Diary Times Desk : Panic gripped Alpha City in Karnal early Wednesday morning after unidentified youths opened 30 to 40 rounds of fire at a music recording company's office. The incident took place around 4 am when two-three bike-borne miscreants reportedly fired multiple shots at the office. Teams of the STF, CIA-1, CIA-2 and Sadar Police rushed to the spot to probe the matter.

Eyewitnesses said that continuous gunfire created chaos in the area, with residents jolted awake with the sound of the bullets. The building's facade and surrounding walls were riddled with bullets, indicating the intensity of the firing.

The accused fled soon thereafter, leaving behind fear and tension among local residents. Police teams reached the site and cordoned off the area. SP Ganga Ram Punia also visited the spot and reviewed the situation. Sub-inspector Manoj Kumar from CIA-2 said that police had started investigations. "We are examining CCTV footage from nearby buildings and trying to identify the suspects.



Florida Man Executed For The 1998 Rape And Murder Of His Neighbor

A Florida man convicted of raping and killing his neighbor decades ago was put to death Tuesday evening in a record 15th execution in Florida this year.

Norman Mearle Grim Jr. was pronounced dead at 6:15 p.m. following a three-drug injection at Florida State Prison near Starke, the office of Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis said.

Grim, 65, was convicted of sexual battery and first-degree murder in the death of Cynthia Campbell. The victim was reported missing in July 1998, and her battered body was found in waters near the Pensacola Bay Bridge by a fisherman.

Prosecutors said Campbell had suffered multiple blunt-force injuries to her face and head that were consistent with being struck by a hammer, as well as 11 stab wounds in the chest.

An autopsy revealed seven of the stab wounds penetrated her heart. Physical evidence including DNA tied Grim to her killing. Since the US Supreme Court restored the death penalty in 1976, the highest previous annual total of Florida executions was eight in 2014. Florida has executed more people than any other state this year, followed by Texas and Alabama with five each. Two more executions are planned for next month in Florida under death warrants signed by DeSantis.

After a death warrant is signed and an execution date is set, inmates have a last chance to make appeals to the Florida Supreme Court and the US Supreme Court. But earlier this month, Grim waived any appeals.

Tuesday, Grim awoke at 6 a.m. and later had a meal of fried pork chops and mashed potatoes with a chocolate milkshake, according to Department of Corrections spokesman Ted Veerman. The spokesman said Grim had no visitors and did not meet with a spiritual adviser as the execution hour loomed.

A total of 40 men have died by court-ordered execution so far this year in the United States, and at least 18 other people are scheduled to be put to death during the remainder of 2025 and next year.

Bryan Fredrick Jennings, 66, is scheduled for the state's 16th execution on November 13. He was convicted of raping and killing a 6-year-old girl in 1979 after entering through a window and abducting her from her central Florida home.

Richard Barry Randolph, 63, is set for Florida's 17th execution on November 20. He was convicted of the 1988 rape and fatal beating of his former manager at a Florida convenience store.

Florida's lethal injections are carried out with a sedative, a paralytic and a drug that stops the heart, according to the state Department of Corrections.



Cindy Von Quednow
Two more executions are planned for next month in Florida under death warrants signed by DeSantis.

World Series At 2-2 Against Dodgers

VLADIMIR GUERRERO JR.'S 2-RUN HR OFF SHOHEI OHTANI HELPS BLUE JAYS

The Toronto Blue Jays bounced back from a tough Game 3 loss to even the World Series at two games apiece following a 6-2 Game 4 victory against the Los Angeles Dodgers on Tuesday.

Down 1-0 in the third inning at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, Blue Jays first baseman Vladimir Guerrero Jr. drilled a go-ahead two-run home run off Dodgers two-way sensation Shohei Ohtani to give the road team a 2-1 lead. It was Guerrero Jr.'s seventh homer this postseason.

"I get that it's easy to write Ohtani versus Guerrero. To us, it's Toronto versus Los Angeles. But that swing was huge," Blue Jays manager John Schneider told reporters after the game. "After last night and kind of all the recognition that went into Shohei individually and he's on the mound today, it's a huge swing from Vlad. It's a huge



Wayne Sterling

Game 5 is scheduled for Wednesday at Dodger Stadium in a rematch between Game 1 starters Trey Yesavage for Toronto and Blake Snell for Los Angeles.



Toronto third baseman Ernie Clement, who was 2-for-4 in Game 4 and is riding a 10-game postseason hitting streak, echoed his teammate's sentiments.

swing to get us going."Guerrero Jr. said he never lost faith in the Blue Jays despite the Game 3 defeat.

"Yesterday was a tough (loss) but we flushed it right away, to us it's one game at a time, one pitch at a time and thank God we come in with a 'W' today," Guerrero Jr. said after the game on the FOX broadcast. "I believe in this team and this team is something special."

Fresh off a historic Game 3 performance, Ohtani made his first career World Series start on the mound.

In six-plus innings, the Japanese pitcher gave up four runs on six hits while striking out six batters and walking one.

Ohtani was lifted in the seventh inning. Toronto would score four runs in the inning as Ohtani took the loss. Ohtani had reached base safely a World Series-record 11 consecutive times after walking in the first inning, but Blue Jays pitcher Shane Bieber struck him out in the third inning, ending the impressive streak. Ohtani went hitless in three at-bats and struck out twice.

Bieber picked up the victory for Toronto after tossing five-and-a-third innings and giving up just one run on four hits.

After what he described as "the biggest start of my career," Bieber spoke to broadcaster FOX about the Blue Jays' fortune.

"We have so many guys that are capable of impacting the game in a positive way, and since I got traded over here, that's exactly who we've been," the mid-season acquisition said.

"It's just a pleasure to be a part of this group."

Toronto third baseman Ernie Clement, who was 2-for-4 in Game 4 and is riding a 10-game postseason hitting streak, echoed his teammate's sentiments.

"That's what we do - we bounce back," Clement told FOX. "We got a resilient group, and it's a testament to the character in our clubhouse."

INFA

Mother Never Stopped Searching

AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST VANISHED IN SYRIA 13 YEARS AGO

This is either gonna be wildly successful or a complete disaster," Austin Tice wrote in May 2012, on the eve of a dangerous journey to bear witness to history. "Here goes nothing."

Tice, a physically towering former Marine and fledgling journalist, threw himself with grit and resolve into war zones, friendships and the injustices he cared deeply about.

But he is yet to return from that journey. Tice disappeared in Syria two months after setting off to cover the country's crippling civil war, sparking a 13-year mystery that has tortured his Texan family and plagued Washington's relationship with Syria's brutal former dictator, Bashar al-Assad.

For more than a decade, nobody has seen or heard from Tice. His family has never lost hope that he is alive, even as successive administrations - from President Obama to President Trump - failed to bring him home.

But in December, Assad's repressive regime - which had always denied capturing or killing Tice - collapsed in an instant. And in the chaotic months since, clues about Tice's fate have begun to seep through the walls



Rob Picheta

Tice stayed with Enawi near the country's northern border for nearly three weeks, interviewing locals about the war. "Everyone (was) saying hello to him - he was a little bit famous," Enawi told CNN.

of Syria's once-impenetrable prisons and palaces.

Now, a CNN investigation has revealed a remarkable development. Bassam al Hassan, a four-star general close to Assad, told CNN's chief international correspondent Clarissa Ward that Tice was killed in 2013, the year after his capture. The order came from Assad, he said. But Hassan failed an FBI polygraph test, CNN has confirmed, and it is unclear which parts of his story remain a lie.

"Austin is like a bridge between America and Syria," Waseem Enawi, a Syrian activist who hosted Tice in his home in Yabrud for three weeks, told CNN. "Through what happened to Austin, people can understand what happened to hundreds of thousands of Syrians," he added. "It's the only good thing I can think of to come out of all of this."

Long before his journey to Syria, Tice knew he wanted to make an impact.

The oldest of seven siblings, Tice was home-schooled by his devoted Catholic parents, Debra and Mark Tice, in Houston. The family loved to travel; they would visit Mexico at least one a year, took several cross-country road trips, and spent three months in Europe while Austin was a teenager.

"It was really important for my parents that we knew that there was a whole world out there," Abigail Tice, Austin's youngest sister, told CNN.

Tice was fiercely protective, Abigail remembered. "Whenever I would have a high school crush, he would talk to them and (say): 'That's my little sister, you better treat her with respect.'"

When Abigail's daughter was born, Austin became a "huge, loving teddy bear," Abigail told CNN. "Every single moment that he could, he was playing with her."

At 23, Tice joined the Marines. "I think he saw the Marines as the greatest challenge," said Brian Bruggeman, Austin's battalion commander during his deployment to Afghanistan in 2011. "Austin was attracted to the way the Marines lead."

The night before he left for Syria, Tice met his family friend in a DC bar. "There was no talking him out of this," the friend told CNN. "He wanted to tell their story. Because he felt like nobody else was there."



THE MELLON BLUE: 'ONE OF THE FINEST COLOURED STONES EVER TO APPEAR ON THE MARKET'

Diary Times Desk : In November 2014, following the death of the horticulturalist Rachel Lambert Mellon — better known as 'Bunny' — more than 1,500 items from her personal collection went to auction in New York.

An icon who lived to the age of 103, Mellon was celebrated for designing the White House's Rose Garden at the request of her friends John F. and Jacqueline Kennedy. She owned a formidable collection of art and many breathtaking homes, and was renowned for her insouciant style. Truman Capote told Time magazine that she always carried a pair of scissors with her so that 'when things look a little too neat, she can take a little snip out of a chair or something so that it will have that lived-in look'.

Estimates started at just a few hundred dollars for one of her watering cans, climbing all the way to \$20 million for Rothko's Untitled (Yellow, Orange, Yellow, Light Orange). The proceeds, Mellon had declared in her will, would fund a foundation to promote the power of gardens to improve wellbeing.

On the evening of 20 November, and the following morning of 21 November, a dedicated section of the sale offered more than 250 of Mellon's jewels — a substantial part of a collection so vast and exquisite that it has since passed into the realm of folklore.

'No outfit was complete without the sparkle of a diamond bracelet or a necklace dripping with emeralds,' wrote Meryl Gordon, the author of Bunny Mellon: The Life of an American Style Legend.

Echoing this sentiment, Mellon herself once famously quipped, 'It is wasteful to be mediocre.'

As a result — and thanks to an almost unlimited budget supplied by her second husband, the Pittsburgh banking heir, philanthropist, art collector and racehorse breeder Paul Mellon — her shopping sprees were nothing short of heroic.

The couple were the largest spenders with Fulco di Verdura, a Sicilian duke and jeweller who opened a store in Manhattan in 1939. Among the jewels he made to order for Bunny Mellon were a spray of purple amethyst flowers, an apple-tree brooch adorned with 26 ruby fruits, and a rhinoceros table decoration carved from a single block of blue rock crystal.



A GUIDE TO SUZANI TEXTILES

Diary Times Desk : What is a suzani?

A suzani is a large, hand-embroidered textile panel; the word comes from the Persian word suzan, which means needle. Originating from nomadic tribes in Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries, suzanis have become highly collectable and valued for their beautiful decoration and fine craftsmanship.

When do they date from?

The rigours of a nomadic lifestyle — daily use in a yurt and exposure to the elements during migration — were not conducive to the preservation of textiles. This means it is unusual to find 'old' suzanis, and the oldest surviving examples are from the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

However, it's likely they were in use long before that. In the early 15th century, Ruy Gonzáles de Clavijo, the Castilian ambassador to the court of Timur (Tamerlane), wrote detailed descriptions of embroidered textiles that were probably forerunners of the suzani.

How were suzanis originally used?

The primary use of a suzani was within the yurt (a nomadic tent), as a protective wrapping panel for textiles and belongings. They were also used as prayer mats, as bed sheets and for seating — pieces of furniture are seldom found in yurts, because they are cumbersome to move.

Suzanis had a symbolic significance, too. They were traditionally made by brides and their mothers as part of a dowry, and presented to the groom on his wedding day. They represented the binding together of two families, and were adorned with symbols of luck, health, long life and fertility.

How were they made?

Suzanis are made from cotton, sometimes silk. The pattern is first drawn onto the cotton, before being embroidered on narrow portable looms. They are usually produced in two or more pieces, meaning that they can be worked on by more than one person, before being stitched together.

Just four stitches — tambour, basma, chain and kanda-khayol — are used to realise a large variety of patterns, which traditionally include the sun and moon, flowers and creepers of the Asian steppe, leaves and vines, fruits (especially pomegranates), and occasionally fish and birds. These motifs were believed to imbue the suzanis with spiritual powers, offering protection or strength to their owners.



BARCELONA TO HOLD AN OPEN TRAINING SESSION AT SPOTIFY CAMP NOU IN NOVEMBER



Diary Times Desk : Following multiple delays and setbacks, FC Barcelona are targeting a return to the renovated Spotify Camp Nou next month.

The home game against Athletic Club, on 22 November, right after the international break, is likely to mark the Blaugrana’s move back to their hallowed stadium.

Open training session before full return
Now, according to Juli Claramunt of Jijantes FC, Barcelona are preparing an open training session at the Spotify Camp Nou on 7 November, giving fans and club members the chance to visit the stadium before an official match takes place. It will serve as a pilot for the club to test out the stadium before hosting an official match. Although there is no official confirmation yet, the announcement is expected soon. Public communication will follow shortly afterwards, provided there are no setbacks.

JUST IN: BARCELONA KEY MIDFIELDER OUT FOR 4-5 WEEKS AFTER SUFFERING MUSCLE INJURY

Diary Times Desk : In a concerning development, journalist Marta Ramon of RAC1 reports that Barcelona superstar Pedri has suffered a muscle injury.

The midfield maestro did not train with the rest of the group today and worked individually inside the gym.

It was initially believed that the reason behind his working by himself was his suspension for the weekend game vs Elche.

However, as per the report, Pedri is dealing with a muscle injury and began specific recovery work in the gym today after feeling discomfort stemming from last Sunday’s Clasico – a match he finished exhausted and from which he was sent off for a second yellow card.

When will Pedri return?
As per the RAC1 report, there is no clarity regarding the duration of absence for Pedri from the muscle injury.
However, according to journalist Adria Albets, the Barcelona mainstay could be out for a period of four to five weeks due to the problem.

OFFICIAL: BARCELONA CONFIRM MUSCLE INJURY TO PEDRI; RULED OUT FOR THREE WEEKS

Diary Times Desk : FC Barcelona have officially announced that key midfielder Pedri has been sidelined with a muscle injury in his left leg.

“The first-team player Pedri has suffered a rupture of the distal biceps femoris in his left leg. The approximate recovery time will depend on the progress of the injury,” the statement from the club read.

Pedri felt discomfort today, after his physical exertion against Real Madrid in last Sunday’s El Clasico at the Santiago Bernabeu and trained away from the rest of the group.

Tests have now confirmed a muscle injury for the midfield superstar, who has started every single game for Barcelona this season across all competitions.

The statement from the club does not specify a possible return timeline for the Spanish international.
However, according to Javi Miguel of AS, the player is likely to be out for three weeks, and should be able to return after the international break in November.

BARCELONA SUPERSTAR SET TO RETURN VS ELCHE; TWO INJURED STARS RESUME ON-PITCH TRAINING

Diary Times Desk : After dealing with seven absences in the first El Clasico of the season last week, FC Barcelona manager Hansi Flick can finally breathe a little ahead of their next La Liga match against Elche this Sunday at Estadi Olimpic Lluis Companys.

Indeed, there is positive news with regard to the progress of three players as the Blaugrana carry out preparations for the weekend league clash.

Lewandowski to return
According to Mundo Deportivo, Robert Lewandowski is set to return to the squad this weekend after missing the past three matches for Barcelona. Lewandowski was not available for the games against Girona, Olympiacos, and Real Madrid due to a muscle tear sustained while on international duty earlier this month. Initial reports suggested a longer time out for the veteran, but he has made exceptional progress and resumed full group training already, and will return vs Elche. However, his inclusion in the starting eleven is unlikely.



BARCELONA HOMEGROWN STAR’S TWO OPTIONS FOR THE SUMMER ONCE LOAN SPELL ENDS – REPORT

Diary Times Desk : Barring an unexpected injury to Joan Garcia, the club’s decision to sign the goalkeeper this summer has paid its dividends already, with the Spaniard making the team’s goal visibly more secure in his short stint so far.

The former Espanyol star, after all, has adapted wonderfully to life in Catalonia and has looked confident with the ball at his feet, stood strong to make important saves regularly and has even swept fantastically for a player with no formal introduction to the system.

His arrival, however, marked the end of Inaki Pena’s spell at the club, especially after Wojciech Szczesny opted to renew his contract and Marc-Andre Ter Stegen refused to leave.

A big decision next summer
Pena left in the final days of the recent summer transfer window and is currently playing for Elche. He did leave, however, only after signing a renewal until 2029.

His loan is only valid for a year, and the player will return to Catalonia next summer. As relayed by SPORT, he has a massive decision to make once again next June, with two options on the table – either become Barça’s No. 2 or leave permanently.

BARCELONA MIDFIELD MAESTRO TRAINS ALONE IN GYM AFTER ABSENCE CONFIRMED VS ELCHE

Diary Times Desk : According to a fresh update from SPORT, Barcelona have allowed Pedri to take a well-deserved breather by training in the gym rather than joining the group session this morning.

The midfielder, who received a red card in the dying minutes of last weekend’s El Clasico, will serve his suspension in the upcoming clash against Elche, effectively giving him a rare 10-day break to recharge both mentally and physically.

While losing a player of Pedri’s calibre is never ideal, this enforced rest might actually prove to be a blessing in disguise for Hansi Flick’s side.

The fixture calendar is about to become more congested, and giving Pedri time to recover could help prevent fatigue or possible injuries later in the season. Suprising numbers
The Elche game will mark only the second occasion that Flick has been unable to rely on Pedri since taking charge of Barcelona.